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April 23d.

Vice-President, BRIDGES, in the Chair.

Thirty-one members present.

A paper was presented for publication, entitled
 "Notes on the habits of *Aphredoderus Sayanus*, by Charles C. Abbott," and was referred to a Committee.

April 30th.

MR. LEA, President, in the Chair.

Twenty-three members present.

On report of the respective Committees, the following papers were ordered to be published :

Revision of the Genera of North American SCIÆNINÆ.

BY THEODORE GILL.

The present memoir has resulted from our studies of the characters of the *Liostomi* and other American Sciænoids, and was intended only to embrace the diagnoses of our genera, but in order to appreciate more fully the relations of those forms, we were induced to study the foreign ones, and have believed that the results are of sufficient interest and importance to submit to ichthyologists. There is a number of other genera confounded under those of Cuvier, but as a gentleman of the Museum of Comparative Anatomy of Cambridge is understood to be engaged in the profound study of the whole family, we refrain from naming and characterizing them. The diagnoses of the exotic genera here described will be sufficient to enable the reader to appreciate the distinctions which exist between our own species and those of the genera with which most of them have been hitherto considered congeneric.

Subfamily SCIÆNINÆ Gill.

The body varies in shape, ranging from an oblong rhomboideo-ovate form to an elongated fusiform one. When the inferior outline of the head ascends to the snout, it is with a very gradual and slight curve. Both jaws are formed with teeth, which are of a more or less acutely conical form.

The dorsal fins are united by a slightly elevated membrane; the first is of moderate height, being longer than high; the second is oblong or elongated. The anal fin is of a trapezoidal form, and as high or higher than long. The ventral fins are generally inserted under or behind the bases of the pectorals, rarely a very short distance in front.

The scales are ctenoid and generally arranged in very oblique rows.

The inferior pharyngeal bones when in place form a triangular U or V-shaped body with a broad triangular excavation, whose sides are slightly emarginated, and whose anterior apex is suddenly continued to an oblong triangular fissure between the opposite bones. Each bone is itself semi-claviform and more or less curved upwards behind; its external vertical margin is straight or nearly so; its internal margin, for the first half of its length, is also straight, but thence, with a slight sigmoid curve, converges to the end of the posterior prolongation of the bone. Beneath the bone, there is an external ridge which is marginal before but slightly recedes behind.

The upper pharyngeal bones are six, or three on each side; the median is subtriangular or triangularly-ovate; the external, or anterior and posterior elongated in the direction of the sides of the median; the posterior is broadest, and has a more or less subovate form.

1861.]